

Serial No. 09/698,301

Docket No.: KCC-15,568

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An absorbent swimwear garment comprising:

a chassis defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings, the chassis including a liquid-permeable body side liner, a selectively liquid-permeable outer cover wherein a liquid that permeates the outer cover can be expelled through the outer cover into an open environment outside of the garment, and an absorbent assembly between the body side liner and the outer cover wherein the absorbent assembly is selected from a web comprising cellulosic fluff and a web comprising superabsorbent material.

Claim 2 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 1, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 1 inch.

Claim 3 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 1, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 2 inches.

Claim 4 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 1, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 5 inches.

Claim 5 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 1, further comprising a crotch area in the chassis between the first and second leg openings, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is more liquid-permeable than the rest of the outer cover.

Claim 6 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 5, further comprising a plurality of apertures in the crotch area of the outer cover.

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Claim 7 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 5, wherein the absorbent assembly directs incoming aqueous fluids away from the crotch area.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) An absorbent swimwear garment comprising:
a chassis defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings, the chassis including a liquid-permeable body side liner, a partially liquid-permeable outer cover wherein a liquid that permeates the outer cover can be expelled through the outer cover into an open environment outside of the garment, and an absorbent assembly between the body side liner and the outer cover wherein the absorbent assembly is selected from a web comprising cellulosic fluff and a web comprising superabsorbent material.

Claim 10 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 9, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 1 inch.

Claim 11 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 9, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 2 inches.

Claim 12 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 9, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 5 inches.

Claim 13 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 9, further comprising a crotch area in the chassis between the first and second leg openings, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is more liquid-permeable than the rest of the outer cover.

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Claim 14 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 13, further comprising a plurality of apertures in the crotch area of the outer cover.

Claim 15 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 13, wherein the absorbent assembly directs incoming aqueous fluids away from the crotch area.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) An absorbent swimwear garment comprising:

a chassis defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings, the chassis including a body side liner, an outer cover wherein a liquid that permeates the outer cover can be expelled through the outer cover into an open environment outside of the garment, and an absorbent assembly between the body side liner and the outer cover wherein the absorbent assembly is selected from a web comprising cellulosic fluff and a web comprising superabsorbent material; and

a crotch area in the chassis between the first and second leg openings, the crotch area of the outer cover being liquid-permeable.

Claim 18 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 1 inch.

Claim 19 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 2 inches.

Claim 20 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 5 inches.

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Claim 21 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein 5% to 100% of surface area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable.

Claim 22 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein 8% to 50% of surface area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable.

Claim 23 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein 10% to 25% of surface area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable.

Claim 24 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 17, further comprising a plurality of apertures in the crotch area of the outer cover.

Claim 25 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 17, further comprising a pair of liquid-permeable containment flaps adjacent the first and second leg openings in the crotch area.

Claim 26 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the containment flaps are liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 0.5 inch.

Claim 27 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the containment flaps are liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 0.75 inch.

Claim 28 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the containment flaps are liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 1.25 inches.

Claim 29 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein 5% to 100% of surface area of the containment flaps is liquid-permeable.

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Claim 30 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein 10% to 50% of surface area of the containment flaps is liquid-permeable.

Claim 31 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein 10% to 30% of surface area of the containment flaps is liquid-permeable.

Claim 32 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the containment flaps comprise a gradient of permeability, with a first longitudinal edge of each flap having greater permeability than a second longitudinal edge of each flap.

Claim 33 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 32, wherein the first longitudinal edge of each flap is attached to the chassis.

Claim 34 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 25, further comprising a plurality of apertures in the containment flaps.

Claim 35 (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the absorbent assembly directs incoming aqueous fluids away from the containment flaps.